Amendment of the Official Secrets Act

1572. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABHSHANRER BHATT.

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 319 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd May, 1990 and state:

(a) whether the task force set up for examining the kinds of information which could be made available by Government and the institutional set up has since submitted its recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) what are the salient features of the proposed amendments to the Official Secrets Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The report of the Task Force is under compilation.

(c) The proposed amendments to the Official Secrets Act, 1923, are generally aimed at making the relevant provisions more liberal to provide greater access to official information.

Militants' Term for Talks

1573. SHRI E. BALANANDAN;

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Militants" terms for talks with Prime Minister" which appeared in the Indian Express dated 30th November, 1990; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news report, *inter-alia* speaks of appointment of a Committee by Parliament for holding negotiations and that the talks should be held in Geneva.

Government would be ready to talk if some approaches it with a view to finding a solution to the problem within the framework of the Constitution and the modalities for the meeting would be decided when such an approach is made.

Weapons with Militants in Punjab and Kashmir

1574. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the Sunday Times dated 2nd December, 1990 to the effect that apart from AK-47 and AK-74 rifles, ground to air shoulder fired missile, undetectable plastic anti-tank and anti-personnel mines, the latest plastic explosives for demolitions, medium and light machine guns and other anti-tank weapons have appeared in large numbers in Punjab and Kashmir as also high velocity spiner rifles with image intensifier nightsights and other night vision equipments; if so, what are the details regarding each kind of weaponry; and

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto and what steps have been taken to meet the serious threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH